

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference DQ, 016 - PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB2004/050001	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 16/08/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 01/05/2004
Applicant VARCO I/P, INC.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 6 sheets.

☐ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. ☒ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 5

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/050001

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-28, 32- 37

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-28, 32-37

Apparatus and method for handling pipes.

2. claims: 29-31

A method for indicating slips of an elevator have engaged a pipe.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/050001

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 E21B19/07 E21B19/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 E21B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EP0-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6 684 737 B1 (PIETRAS BERND-GEORG ET AL) 3 February 2004 (2004-02-03) column 4, line 16 - column 6, line 16; figures 1,2	1,20
A	----- US 2002/121160 A1 (BANGERT DANIEL S) 5 September 2002 (2002-09-05) page 4, paragraph 46 - page 4, paragraph 47; figure 7	1,20
A	----- US 6 227 587 B1 (TERRAL BEN D) 8 May 2001 (2001-05-08) column 7, line 65 - column 8, line 21; figures 1-3	1,20
	----- -/--	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 November 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

18. 04. 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Morris, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB2004/050001

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 992 801 A (TORRES CARLOS A) 30 November 1999 (1999-11-30) column 4, line 61 - column 5, line 56; figure 3 -----	1,20
A	US 4 415 193 A (CARLBERG CHARLES E) 15 November 1983 (1983-11-15) abstract -----	1,20
A	US 6 279 662 B1 (SONNIER ERROL A) 28 August 2001 (2001-08-28) abstract -----	1,20
A	US 6 305 649 B1 (EMMETT ROBERT ET AL) 23 October 2001 (2001-10-23) abstract -----	1,20
X	US 6 536 520 B1 (SNIDER RANDY GENE ET AL) 25 March 2003 (2003-03-25) cited in the application the whole document -----	32-37

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/050001

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6684737	B1	03-02-2004	GB 2346576 A 16-08-2000
		AU 1989000 A 18-08-2000	
		CA 2359214 A1 03-08-2000	
		DE 69923790 D1 24-03-2005	
		EP 1147285 A1 24-10-2001	
		WO 0045027 A1 03-08-2000	
		NO 20013582 A 04-09-2001	
US 2002121160	A1	05-09-2002	US 6378399 B1 30-04-2002
			US 2004055421 A1 25-03-2004
			CA 2266367 A1 19-03-1998
			DE 69726196 D1 18-12-2003
			EP 1015184 A1 05-07-2000
US 6227587	B1	08-05-2001	NONE
US 5992801	A	30-11-1999	NONE
US 4415193	A	15-11-1983	CA 1164442 A1 27-03-1984
US 6279662	B1	28-08-2001	WO 9948794 A1 30-09-1999
US 6305649	B1	23-10-2001	AU 757426 B2 20-02-2003
			AU 3321399 A 08-06-2000
			BR 9901780 A 11-07-2000
			GB 2338008 A ,B 08-12-1999
			NO 992660 A 06-12-1999
US 6536520	B1	25-03-2003	AU 4858501 A 30-10-2001
			CA 2404752 A1 25-10-2001
			EP 1274919 A1 15-01-2003
			WO 0179652 A1 25-10-2001
			NO 20024756 A 27-11-2002
			US 2003164276 A1 04-09-2003
			US 2003173073 A1 18-09-2003
			US 2004144547 A1 29-07-2004
			US 2005000691 A1 06-01-2005